



Fatality #5 - February 15, 2003

**Fall of Face, Rib, Pillar or Highwall - Underground – Illinois
Wabash Mine Holding Company - Wabash Mine**

COAL MINE FATALITY - On Saturday, February 15, 2003, a 56-year old roof bolting machine operator with 23- years of mining experience was fatally injured in a rib fall accident. During drilling operations, the victim detected a crack in the left rib of No. 7 entry. As he walked along the left side of the roof-bolting machine to retrieve a pry-bar, a large section of rock and coal rib fell without warning, crushing him. The rock and coal rib measured approximately 8 ½-feet high by 2-feet wide by 30-feet long.



Best Practices

- Examine the roof, face, and ribs immediately before working in any area. Also, examine frequently during work.
- Take down or adequately support any loose roof and ribs.
- Be aware of changing roof and rib conditions and act accordingly.
- Take extended cuts only in areas with competent roof and rib conditions. Reduce cut depths when adverse conditions are encountered.

This is the 5th fatality reported in calendar year 2003 in the coal mining industry. As of this date in 2002, there were four fatalities reported in the coal mining industry. This is the first fatality classified as Roof or Rib Fall in 2003. At this time in 2002, there was one Roof or Rib Fall fatality